



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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June 15, 2005

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STATEMENT FROM REP. BENNIE G. THOMPSON (D-MS) ON DHS'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS

“We have no control over the way countries issue their own passports and we can’t guarantee the security and privacy measures each country uses when issuing them. So, as useful as biometric passports might be in reinforcing a person’s identity, the real path to secure aviation travel is to check every airplane traveler to the United States against accurate terrorist watch lists before they get on the plane.

“Also, DHS should be talking with the airlines when looking for ways to improve the visa waiver program to make sure any changes don’t cause extended wait times for travelers.”

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